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Article 1: 21st September 2007
Piece: Display cabinet on a stand

Subject: Steps to be completed prior to carcass glue-up.

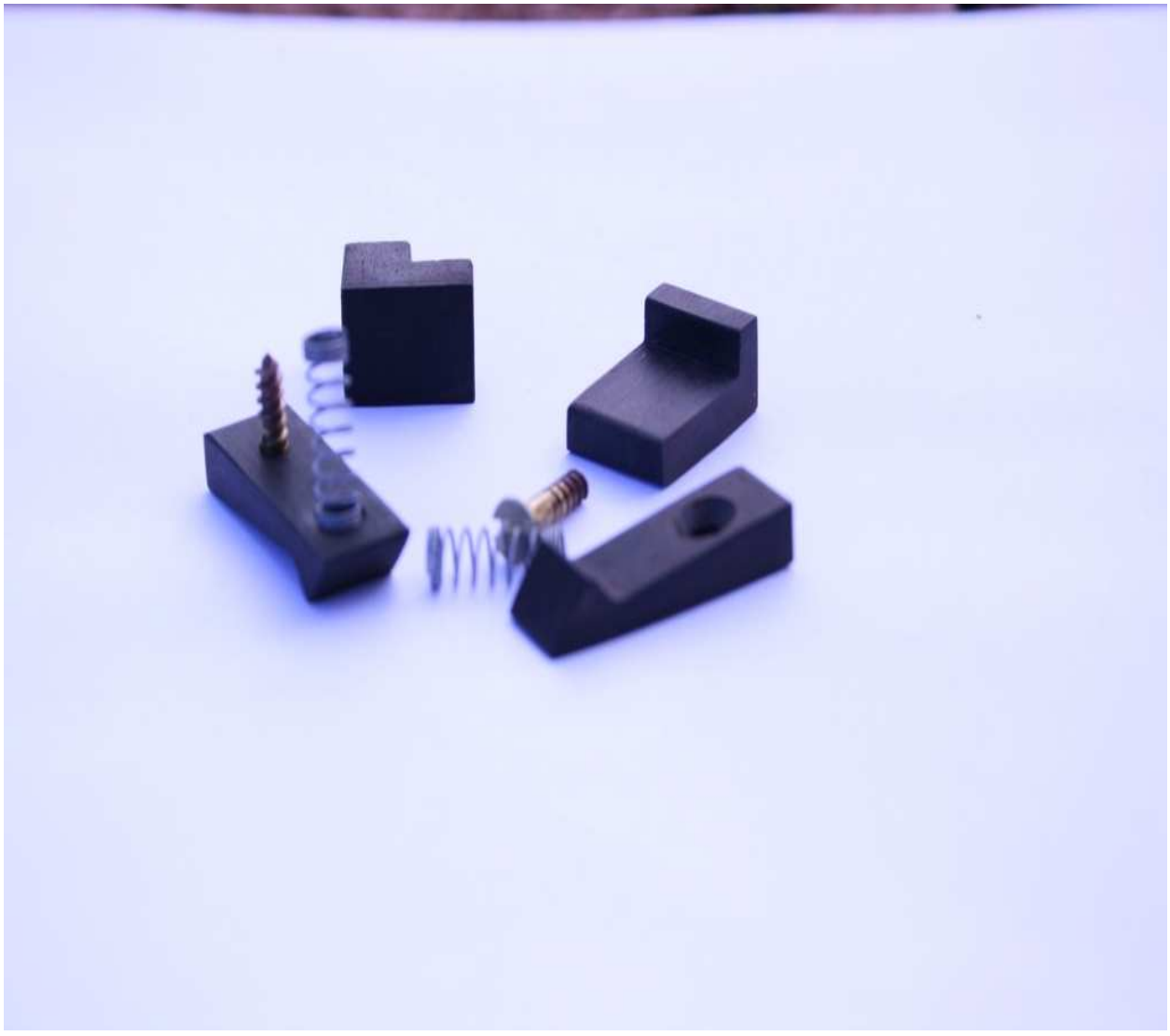
This particular piece of furniture is a display cabinet on a stand made from beautiful Western Australian Jarrah. As mentioned on my website; when furniture makers think of cabinets on stands the name Krenov immediately comes to mind. This piece definitely has Krenov influence and these will be mentioned as the making continues and the piece takes shape.

This particular article is concentrating on what needs to be done to the carcass pieces prior to glue-up. Once we have glued the carcass together it is very difficult to get inside and prepare housings for hinges, hardware, shelves, etc…. Therefore, it is best to have prepared the interior and finished it prior to glue-up.

Before I go on, firstly you will need to prepare the four cabinet sides. That means planing your face side and face edge on all four pieces. The face side will be the inside face and the face edge will be the outside front edge. Use winding sticks to ensure you remove any wind from these pieces. These pieces must be flat and straight. Once you have a face side and face edge you can re-thickness and cut to size to ensure both sides are the same and the top and base are the same. Mark out your joinery and cut the joinery accurately. The marking out and cutting of single lap dovetails will be discussed when the two drawers are being made for the cabinet.

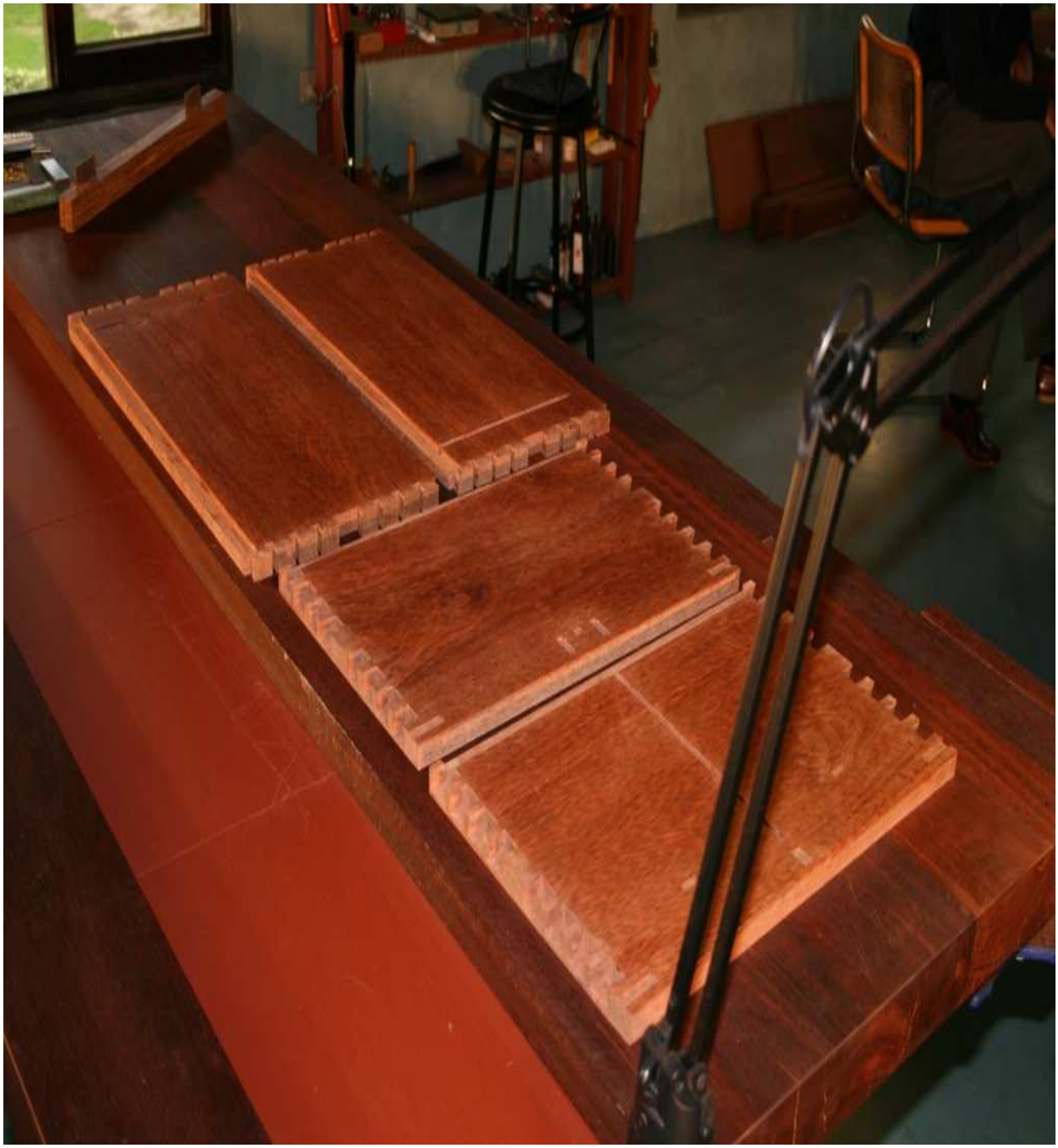
Before I commenced planing the carcass timber and laying out the joinery I made the cabinet hardware that would be used in the piece. I used African Blackwood for this hardware as it is very dense and strong and I love the deep black/purple colour. It will contrast beautifully with the Western Australian Jarrah. Making cabinet hardware is a Krenov detail that I like very much. I feel it adds a significant amount to the overall feel of the piece. The sound of the doors closing crisply against the door stop is excellent. The hardware made was two door catches to be placed at the top of the cabinet. One door stop to be placed at the top of the cabinet and one door stop and lifter to be placed at the bottom of the

cabinet. The purpose of the stop and lifter at the bottom is twofold. Firstly the stop is for the closing of the doors and the lifter, which protrudes about half a millimeter above the carcass base prevents the doors rubbing on the finished surface if the downward pressure from the door catches is too great. Once these items are made, the housings can be accurately cut in the relevant carcass piece before glue-up.
The picture below shows the four items of cabinet hardware made from African Blackwood:
The next edition of the Australian Wood Review will feature an article written by me on the making of these four items. The next edition comes out in late November 2007 as it is a three monthly magazine.



The second photo below shows the four carcass sides ready for 'glue-up'. These website articles were commenced after the joinery had been cut so I do not have photos of that process. However, the carcass joinery is single lap dovetail. This

type of dovetail will be used on the front of the drawers so I will discuss their cutting when the drawers are made.



The piece closest is the base of the cabinet. You can see housings at either front side for the pivot hinges. A central housing at the front for the stop and lifter. The long thin housing behind that which runs to the back is for the drawer divider and the two small housings about two inches back on either side are for the drawer stops. You can also see that I have routed the back end which will house the back frame and panel.

The next carcass piece is the cabinet top. Once again the back of this piece is routed to house the back frame and panel. The housings for the pivot hinges are at either side at the front and the three central housings are for the two door catches on either side, and the door stop in the centre.
The next two pieces side by side are the two cabinet sides. Once again the housing for the back has been routed and any shelf supports have been routed or drilled. With all of the hardware that has been fitted, you must also have drilled all tapping holes to accommodate the screws and with the catches, you must also drill the hole for each catch that will house the spring and prevent it from sliding around. With the tapping holes for the hinges, there is one very important thing you should do before gluing up. I am using brass screws for the hinges and brass screws are not that strong. If your tapping holes are just a little too tight there is a danger of the screw breaking when it is tightened. I found a steel screw of the same length and thread pattern to the brass screws. Using this screw you can screw in the hinges and ensure the tapping hole has been prepared to take the brass screw. If you do this you will not shear off a brass screw head and have the nightmare of trying to remove an embedded brass thread.

So before 'glue-up' I must have completed all work required for the interior of the cabinet. It is difficult to get inside to cut housings when the carcass is glued. The housings that have been cut on the inside faces of the four carcass sides are as follows:

Housings for all four hinges, and tapping holes for the hinge screws. I have used pivot hinges.
Housings for all of the cabinet hardware mentioned above and tapping holes for the two door catches.
Housings for any shelves and drawer dividers.
Housings for drawer stops.
A rebate for the back of the carcass.

Once all of that is done and you are ready for glue-up, you need to take one set of through shavings to clean the interior surfaces. This set of through shavings will remove any chalk or pencil marks and leave your inside face edge clean and ready for finishing.

I have also finished the interior surfaces with beeswax. I have used wax for the interior to avoid any sweating that may take place if I were to use oil. Wax will also enable the drawers to run smoothly against the sides of the carcass.

Once all of this is done I am ready to glue-up the carcass.

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